

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

ORDER NO. R7-2003-0074

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY, OWNER/OPERATOR
BLYTHE COMPRESSOR STATION
Blythe - Riverside County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, finds that:

1. The Southern California Gas Company, Owner/Operator, 555 W. 5th Street, Los Angeles, California, 90013-1011 (hereinafter referred to as the discharger), submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region (hereafter referred to as the Regional Board) dated April 21, 2000, for the evaporation ponds of the Blythe Compressor Station located at 13100 West 14th Avenue, Blythe, California, 92225, in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 35, T6S, R22E, SBB&M, Riverside County, as shown on the attached Site Map.
2. Definition of terms used in this Board Order:
 - a. Facility – the entire parcel of property where the Blythe Compressor Station industrial operations or related industrial activities are conducted.
 - b. Waste Management Units (WMUs) – the area of lands, or the portions of the facility, where industrial waste or related wastes are discharged. The term includes containment (i.e. evaporation ponds, infiltration basin, sumps, etc.) and ancillary features for precipitation and drainage control and monitoring appurtenances.
 - c. Discharger – any person who discharges waste that could affect the quality of the waters of the State, and includes any person who owns the land, waste management unit or who is responsible for the operation of a waste management unit.
 - d. Background – the concentrations or measures of constituents or indicator parameters in water or soil that has not been affected by the waste constituents or leachate from the waste management unit being monitored.
 - e. Background Monitoring Point – a well, device, or location specified in the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) at which monitoring for background water quality or background soil quality is conducted.
 - f. Best Management Practice – a practice, or combination of practices, that is the most effective and feasible means of controlling pollution for the attainment of water quality objectives.
3. The Southern California Gas Company's Blythe Compressor Station was constructed in 1947 as a line compressor station to boost natural gas pressure in the three (3) interstate "Texas Pipelines" that deliver natural gas to Los Angeles. Municipal, commercial and residential users receive natural gas service from these three (3) pipelines served by the Blythe Compressor Station.
4. The Blythe Compressor Station consists of two (2) compressor plants. Plant number one (1) with 10 gas compressors powered by large natural gas fired engines, and plant number two (2) with

five (5) gas compressors powered also by large natural gas fired engines. In addition, several other smaller natural gas engines are used in both plants to provide electricity and compressed air for plant operations. The fifteen compressors for the two (2) plants have a total output of 25,280 horsepower (HP).

5. Process water is provided from two (2) groundwater supply wells located on the property. The depth of the ground water supply wells is approximately 370 feet below ground surface (bgs). Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) range from 450 mg/L to 1,600 mg/L. An average of 15.4 million gallons of water per year is extracted from these two (2) wells. The water is mainly used in the cooling towers and air washers. The remaining portion of the extracted ground water goes through a water softener prior to use as jacket cooling water, swimming pool water and domestic water use. The jacket cooling water is in a closed loop cooling water system. The domestic wastewater is discharged through a septic tank discharge system.
6. Chemicals are added to the closed cooling water system, cooling towers, and air washers for process control. The water in the closed cooling water system, cooling towers, and air washers are chemically treated to prevent scaling, biological growth, and corrosion, and to adjust pH.
7. The discharger has recently constructed two (2) double-lined ponds in addition to the two (2) existing ponds covering a total of four (4) acres. Assuming a freeboard of two (2) feet, the total lined evaporation basin design volume is 6.89 million gallons of wastewater.
8. The discharger states, under normal working conditions, the ponds' capacity is large enough to accept all wastewater generated at the facility. There is also an unlined emergency event pond onsite in addition to the four (4) said ponds. The emergency event pond is only to be used in emergency situations in the unlikelyhood that the four (4) ponds are filled to capacity,
9. The sources of wastewater from the Blythe Compressor Station are the following:
 - a. Cooling tower blowdown.
 - b. Brine wastewater from regenerating the softener.
 - c. Air washer water used to cool the intake air used in the main unit compressor.
 - d. Storm water.
 - e. Oil/water mixture from compressor engines (after the oil has been mainly removed by an oil/water separator tank).
 - f. Wastewater from a steam cleaning pad.
 - g. Wastewater from the closed cooling water systems.
 - h. Hydrostatic test water used to pressure-test piping.
 - i. Wastewater from the swimming pool.

All of the above listed wastewater streams are directed to the evaporation ponds.

10. The site geology in the vicinity of the WMUs consists of clays interbedded with silty fine sand. The upper seven to fifteen feet is composed of alluvial sediments composed of a heterogeneous mixture of gravel, sand and silt, with some clay.
11. The depth-to-ground water in the shallow aquifer ranges from 10 to 15 feet below ground surface. The direction of groundwater flow at the site is generally to the south, following the path of the Colorado River.
12. Groundwater quality is monitored through six (6) monitoring wells (MW-1, MW-2, MW-3, MW-4, WTP MW2, and WTP MW1) located at the site as shown on Attachment A. The monitoring wells MW-1 through MW-4 were constructed to assist in determining whether the groundwater is, or has been impacted pursuant to existing WDRs. Monitoring wells WTP-MW2 and MTP-MW1 were

constructed to investigate impacts from hydrocarbons released to the groundwater in the vicinity of two (2) former 180,000-gallon water tanks.

13. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California (Basin Plan), as amended to date, and designates the beneficial uses of ground and surface waters in this Region.
14. The beneficial uses of groundwater in the Colorado Hydrologic Unit, are:
 - a. Municipal Supply (MUN)
 - b. Industrial Supply (IND)
 - c. Agriculture supply (AGR)
15. Any hazardous waste generated or stored at the facility will be stored and disposed in a manner compliant with federal and state regulations.
16. In accordance with Section 15301, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, the issuance of these WDRs, which govern the operation of an existing facility involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 ex.seq.).
17. The jurisdiction of the Regional Board is limited to regulating the impact on water quality and the beneficial uses of water by the discharge of wastes. These WDRs, Board Order No. R7-2003-0074, are limited to matters within the Regional Boards' jurisdiction.
18. The Board has notified the discharger and all known interested agencies and persons of its intent to update WDRs for said discharge and has provided them with an opportunity for a public meeting and an opportunity to submit comments.
19. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Board Order No. 00-115 is rescinded, and in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, the discharger shall comply with the following:

A. Specifications

1. The treatment or disposal of wastes at this facility shall not cause pollution as defined in Sections 13050 of Division 7 of the California Water Code.
2. Storage of wastewater shall be limited to the areas designated for such activities. Any revision or modification of the designated area, or any proposed change in operation at the facility, must be submitted in writing to the Regional Board's Executive Officer for review and approval before the proposed change in operations or modification of the designated area is implemented.
3. Any material increase or change in the annual average volume of material to be discharged at the site must be submitted in writing to the Regional Board's Executive Officer for review and approval.
4. Final disposal of residual wastes and cleanup of the evaporation ponds and sumps shall be accomplished to the satisfaction of the Regional Board's Executive Officer upon abandonment or closure of operations.

5. Fluids and/or materials discharged to and/or stored in these evaporation ponds and sumps shall not overflow the basins.
6. Prior to the use of new chemicals for the purpose of adjustment or control of microbes, pH, scale and corrosion of the open cooling water systems, the discharger shall submit to the Regional Board's Executive Officer, a written request for approval.
7. A minimum depth of freeboard of two (2) feet shall be maintained at all times in the four (4) lined ponds.
8. The ponds shall be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to prevent inundation or washout due to floods having a predicted frequency of once in 100 years.
9. Each pond shall be double lined. A leak detection and removal system shall be installed between the liners. The outer liner shall be a composite liner consisting of at least 12 inches of clay or bentonite panels with a hydraulic conductivity of no greater than 1×10^{-6} cm/sec or equivalent, and a flexible membrane liner of 60 mil high-density polyethylene (HDPE), or equivalent. The inner liner shall also be a flexible membrane liner of 60 mil HDPE, or equivalent.
10. Each cell within each pond shall contain an independent leak detection and removal system (LDRS) between the inner and outer liners.
11. There shall be no discharge of liquid wastes at this site unless approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
12. The discharger shall use the constituents listed in Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2003-0074, and revisions thereto, as "Monitoring Parameters". These monitoring parameters are subject to the most appropriate statistical or non-statistical test under Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2003-0074, Part III, and any revised Monitoring and Reporting Program approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
13. The discharger shall implement the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2003-0074 and revisions thereto, in order to detect, at the earliest opportunity, any unauthorized discharge of waste constituents from the facility, or any impairment of beneficial uses associated with (caused by) discharges of waste to the WMU.
14. The discharger shall follow the Water Quality Protection Standard (WQPS) for detection monitoring established by the Regional Board pursuant to Title 27. The following are four (4) parts of WQPS as established by the Regional Board (The terms, if are used in this Board Order regarding monitoring, are defined in Part I of the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2003-0074, and revisions thereto, which is hereby incorporated by reference):
 - a. The discharger shall test for the Monitoring Parameters at frequencies specified and listed in Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2003-0074, and revisions thereto.
 - b. Monitoring points and background monitoring points for detection monitoring shall be those listed in Part II of the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2003-0074, and any revised Monitoring and Reporting Program approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
15. The discharger shall not cause the release of pollutants, or waste constituents in a manner that could cause a condition of contamination, or pollution to occur, as indicated by the most appropriate statistical (or non-statistical) data analysis method and retest method listed in Part III of the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2003-0074, and revisions thereto.

16. The discharger shall establish an irrevocable bond for closure in an amount acceptable to the Regional Board's Executive Officer or provide other means to ensure financial security for closure if closure is needed at the discharging site. The closure fund shall be established (or evidence of an existing closure fund shall be provided) within six (6) months of the adoption of this Order.

B. Prohibitions

1. The direct discharge of any wastes to any surface waters or surface drainage courses is prohibited except for the use of the emergency event pond.
2. The discharge of waste to land not owned or controlled by the discharger is prohibited.
3. The discharge or deposit of hazardous, designated waste (as defined in Title 27) at this site is prohibited.
4. The discharger shall neither cause nor contribute to the contamination or pollution of ground water via the release of waste constituents in either liquid or gaseous phase.
5. The discharger shall not cause nor contribute in the concentration of waste constituents in soil-pore gas, soil-pore liquid, soil, or other geologic materials outside of the unit if such waste constituents could migrate to waters of the State, in either the liquid or the gaseous phase, and cause a condition of contamination or pollution.

C. Provisions

1. The discharger shall comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2003-0074, and revisions thereto, as specified by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
2. Prior to any modifications in this facility that would result in material change in the quality or quantity of wastewater treated or discharged, or any material change in the location of discharge, the discharger shall report all pertinent information in writing to the Regional Board and obtain revised requirements before any modifications are implemented.
3. Prior to any change in ownership or management of this operation, the discharger shall transmit a copy of this Board Order to the succeeding owner/operator, and forward a copy of the transmittal letter to the Regional Board.
4. The discharger shall ensure that all site-operating personnel are familiar with the content of this Board Order, and shall maintain a copy of this Board Order at the site.
5. This Board Order does not authorize violation of any federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
6. Facilities shall be available to keep the plant in operation in the event of commercial power failure.
7. The discharger shall allow the Regional Board, or an authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:
 - a. Enter upon the premises regulated by this Board Order, or the place where records must be kept under the conditions of this Board Order;
 - b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that shall be kept under the conditions of this Board Order;

- c. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Board Order; and
 - d. Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purpose of assuring compliance with this Board Order or as otherwise authorized by the California Code of Regulations, any substances or parameters at this location.
8. This Board Order does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
 9. Unless otherwise approved by Regional Board's Executive Officer, all analyses shall be conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the California Department of Health Services. All analyses shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of "Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for Analysis of Pollutants", promulgated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
 10. All regulated disposal systems shall be readily accessible for sampling and inspection.
 11. Adequate measures shall be taken to assure that flood or surface drainage waters do not erode or otherwise render portions of the discharge facilities inoperable.
 12. The discharger is the responsible party for the WDRs and the Monitoring and Reporting program for the facility. The discharger shall comply with all conditions of these WDRs. Violations may result in enforcement actions, including Regional Board Orders or court orders, requiring corrective action or imposing civil monetary liability, or modification or revocation of these WDRs by the Regional Board.
 13. The discharger shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical monitoring program reports, and such reports shall be submitted in accordance with the specifications prepared by the Regional Board's Executive Officer. Such specifications are subject to periodic revisions as may be warranted.
 14. All containment structures and erosion and drainage control systems shall be designed and constructed under direct supervision of a California Registered Civil Engineer or Certified Engineering Geologist, and shall be certified by the individual as meeting the appropriate prescriptive standards and performance goals of Title 27.
 15. The Regional Board considers the property owner to have a continuing responsibility for correcting any problems that may arise in the future as a result of this waste discharge.
 16. The discharger shall, within 60 days of a significant earthquake event, submit to the Regional Board a detailed post-earthquake report describing any physical damages to the containment features, groundwater monitoring and/or leachate control facilities and a corrective action plan to be implemented at the facility.
 17. This Board Order is subject to Regional Board review and updating, as necessary, to comply with changing state or federal laws, regulations, policies, or guidelines, or changes in the discharger characteristics.

I, Philip A. Gruenberg, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on November 5, 2003.

Executive Officer